

# Ohio Street Homes Give Way to Business District

APR 30 1972 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

On Ohio street, between 3rd and 4th, were the homes of George Brokaw and Charles Groverman, both long gone as the district was given over to business.

Ralph Tousey, one time partner of W. R. McKeen in his earliest venture as a banker after he left the old State Bank, lived at the corner of 4th and Ohio. The old Linton house stood in the middle of the block bounded by Ohio, Walnut, 5th and 6th streets, from which it was moved to Ohio street in the seventies. It became the office of Maumee Collieries.

On the southeast corner of 6th and Ohio stood the home of Newton Booth and his sister Elizabeth. In 1857, in that house, she married John Stevenson Tarkington and became the mother of Booth Tarkington, who was christened Newton Booth, but dropped the Newton, the name of his great-grandmother Mary Newton, of Woodbridge, Conn.

To the east of it stood the offices of the Wabash and Erie Canal, first occupied by them in December, 1853. As a residence it was occupied by Lucius Ryce and G. W. Bement.

Across the street was a house built by Curtis Gilbert and occupied by him before he built his country home east of the city (where the park is now on Wabash between 14th and 15th streets). Later John S. Beach lived there, whose wife was a daughter of Mr. Gilbert.

To the east of it was the home of Ezra W. Smith who disappeared one night after a party arranged for a great assembly but attended only by himself and his friend Judge Elisha M. Huntington who later settled the estate of Smith, declared legally dead. Later Huntington bought it and moved there from the Scott house at Third and Ohio. This later became the property of the Terre Haute Club and of the Y.M.C.A. James Turner lived there after the death of Judge Huntington.

Next, east of here, was the home of the Graff family and beyond it, James Turner lived in a house that had been occupied by S. S.

Early after he had moved from his old place at the southwest corner of Seventh and Ohio where the Indiana Theater is now. Following Early, this home was occupied by R. L. Thompson, whose Anchor



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Mill stood at the southeast corner of First and Poplar.

Opposite this at the northwest corner of 7th and Ohio, was the home of Dr. Ezra Read who built his later and larger home at the corner now occupied by the Odd Fellows Temple at 8th and Ohio.

West of Thompson's on the south side of Ohio, where the Telephone building is now, stood the residence of Jacob D. Early and to the west of that was the home built by John P. Usher who left here to become Secretary of the Interior in President Lincoln's cabinet. Moving to Kansas to become attorney for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, he sold it to Herman Hulman.

Beyond this stood the home of Lucius Ryce, an early merchant of the city, whose brother Captain Harry Ryce was in the old Canal Office building.

Still farther east on Ohio stood the old home of Dr. Wood, later occupied by his daughter Harriet Coffroth, known in the early days as

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

## Dorothy Clark

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Hallie Wood, a belle of the town. Her sister, Sidney Wood, was affectionately known as "Siddy."

On the southeast corner of 8th and Ohio stood the home of Patrick Shannon, a pioneer private banker. The house burned and Shannon started a series of suits against the insurance companies that rivaled the case of Jarndice vs. Jarndice. He later lived on the west side of 5th, the second house north of Park street.

To the east of it was the home of A. L. Chamberlain, an early builder here. The greater part, if not all, of the work done by Chauncey Rose was under the charge of Chamberlain. The old Prairie House, the present freight house of the Pennsylvania Railroad, many of the residences in Rose's addition and Subdivisions were his work and he was a partner of Tindal Madison in the build-  
Deming at the southeast corner of Walnut and 6th in 1842.

Opposite this house of Chamberlain's stood the house built by Arba Holmes whose modest foundry grew into the car and manufacturing plant between 9½ and the railroad, south of Wabash.

On the lot at the northeast corner of 9½ stood a row of four double houses, a story and a half in height, built by the priest of St. Benedict's, Father Pius Kotterer and pur-

## KEEP HER HAPPY

**SOUTH SHIELDS, England (UPI)** — Seven-year-old Dawn Holden's daddy bought her a school just to keep her happy. Furniture store owner Victor Holden said Friday he bought St. Anne's private school for an undisclosed price because he heard it was for sale and worried it might go to someone who would want to change teaching methods. "My little girl has done extremely well there," he said. "She is happy with the school as it is and I want her and her friends to stay that way."

chased from him by Herman Hulman.

Returning to 6th street, at the northwest corner of Poplar stood a large frame house built by William J. Ball, engineer of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the Cross-Cut Canal, and a very early, if not the first, president of the Terre Haute Gas Light Company. The late William C. Ball was born in this house, the lot having been bought in 1848 and the house built soon after. In 1854 Mr. Ball sold to George E. Brokaw, who in turn sold to William B. Tuell in 1857.

After living in the frame house for some time, Tuell sold the house to Theodore Hulman, who had bought the half of a subdivision east and north of 6th and Park streets and started to build a brick house in the middle of the block. Advised by his brother Herman Hulman to build on one side of the property instead of in the middle and to

build only a temporary house until his wife was satisfied to live so far out of town, he bought the Tuell house and moved it to its location at the northeast corner of 6th and Park streets.

On the lot where it stood, Tuell built a magnificent dwelling and shortly before his death it is said (with no possible means of verification now) that he lost it in one of those super colossal poker games of the times. Whatever truth there may have been to the story, the deed itself names the consideration as \$80,000, and Lucy Hervey, the purchaser, to assume a mortgage for \$25,000.

Her husband, Robert G. Hervey, was the builder of the old Illinois Midland Railroad, later the Peoria division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He seems to have paid but \$5,000 on the mortgage and the Sheriff sold it to W. R. McKeen in 1883 to satisfy a balance of \$20,000 still due.

Still more about homes of long ago in next week's column . . .

# Farrington House Built Among Catalpa Trees

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

To MAY 7 1972

At an early day James Farrington had built a home at the northwest corner of 3rd and Wabash. Surrounded by a grove of black catalpa trees, it was known as "Locust Corner." It burned in the late thirties and the family lived for a while in the Prairie House where their son George was born.

A rather fragile and sickly child, Mr. Farrington was advised to move his family to the country and he bought a large tract of land south of town where he built his house at the northeast corner of 5th and Farrington Sts. At the time only 3rd and 6th Sts. had been opened through that part of the present city and the home was really a rural one.

In 1850, R. W. Thompson bought a tract of land 230 feet wide lying south of College and 230 feet from it, extending from 3rd St. to 6th St. and soon after built his house well back from 6th with a lane of Catalpa trees leading to it. Sold by Thompson in 1864 to William J. Ball, he bought of Ball the country place called "Spring Hill."

Mr. Ball had bought the place in 1856 and built soon after. Most of his children were born there but in 1864 he made the deal with Col. Thompson to obtain schooling for them and returned to town.

A noted, if not notorious, house once stood on the east side of 6th at 1214. Built in 1852 by Henry D. Williams, it was purchased by Chauncey Rose in 1865, by Josephus Collett in 1870, and my Samuel McDonald in 1871 when it became "Rowdy Hall." Chandeliers and marble mantels were used as targets for pistol packing heavy drinkers and their fancy women imported from Baltimore.

After McDonald's removal to a more secluded country place, the fine old house was purchased by Col. Thompson in 1881 and he lived there until his death. The house was then cut in two sections and moved to the 2200 blocks of South 7th and South Center Sts., where they still serve as lovely homes.



DOROTHY J.  
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A little farther south on 6th St. a short street runs from 6th to 1st, named Osborn, the final "e" being an added letter to the name of Osborn, editor of the "Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser."

At the head of 5th St. where it comes from the south stands a two-story house built by George C. Duy, whose wife

was a granddaughter of Osborn. His father, Lambert Duy, built a house a little west of this, a small one-story cottage that at one time was occupied by Marietta Grover, beloved school teacher of early days.

Across the street stood the Mansion House of Judge S. B. Gookins, "Strawberry Hill," named for that landmark that dominated the south part of the present city. Wild strawberries grew in profusion on this hill, and the villagers would ride out with baskets to pick them in the summertime.

Elected a member of the City Council in 1847 and 1848, Judge Gookins resigned in May, 1849, "having removed out of the corporation." George C. Duy moved to Indianapolis in 1882. In 1885 the Mansion House with the land between 4th and 5th, Hulman

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and Osborne, after several intermediate ownerships, was sold to the newly organized Costes College, a Presbyterian College for girls. After a few years of operation, the property was sold to W. R. McKeen who platted it as College Place and the old house was torn down and the material

used to build other houses there.

### Oldest Remaining House

Another pioneer home was built about 1830 by George W. Deweese at the present 13½ and Poplar. The oldest dwelling house left in the city of Terre Haute. He owned a quarry near the mouth of Coal Creek where the stone came from to build the first Courthouse and the stone intended for the bridge over the Wabash on the National Road. When the project was abandoned, the stone lying on the bank was bought by the Terre Haute & Alton Railroad for the bridge to be used by that line. Some

of that original stone is still in the present Big Four bridge.

The stone of which the house is built was hauled down, and in 1833 when he advertised the place for sale he says it is "a half mile from town, 320 acres of prairie land, under fence, with a fine two-story house, finished in the best manner." After his death it came into the hands of Marcus Hitchcock who in 1841 advertised it as having 160 acres, a stone Mansion House, two small dwellings and a barn. In 1843 it was sold to Nathaniel Preston, who se

granddaughter still lives there.

Many more of these old homes could be described if there were space. Many of them are gone, but many more are still standing. Their history takes time and experience in research to work out the details of who built them and when; who lived and died there; and from these houses have gone out into the world many men and women of note.

The homes of pioneer ministers and founders of present day churches, of pioneer lawyers, doctors, merchants, porkpackers, canal and railroad builders, all can be lo-

cated, although some exist now only in old photographs.

Too many of these pioneer homes have disappeared, wantonly destroyed, as the home of Chauncey Rose where Lab School now stands. An enlightened public might have saved some of these for posterity. Many remember the houses that lined Mulberry and Eagle Sts. between Sixth and Seventh, demolished one by one in the names of progress and education.

The Condit House, built in the early days of the Civil War by Lucien Houriet, remains on the ISU campus as

the home of Dr. Alan Rankin, president of the university.

Urban redevelopment has cleared out many of our homes and business buildings in the west end that badly needed demolition. They had certainly outlived their usefulness and were never beautiful examples of architecture to begin with.

Anyone having knowledge of old houses and their history in the Wabash Valley is invited to contact this writer.

The first tong, for Chinese secret society, was the Kwong Dock Tong of San Francisco.

# Social Status Reflected By 19th Century Houses

Community Affairs File

TS APR 6 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Social analysts of our day may well believe that we have somehow recently created a great emphasis on social status as reflected in ostentation and conspicuous consumption.

Surveying Wabash Valley architecture of the 19th Century makes me question that analysis. In fact, it is my contention that for over a century one of the major purposes of the most noteworthy homes has been to publicly display the original owner's "taste" or lack of taste, and social prestige. Among a geographically stable populous, a "big house" has been and is today a very real mark of socio-economic success.

The average 19th century Vigo county citizen did not generally think of following exactly any one of the basic architectural styles. In fact, he did not generally hire an architect. Perhaps, instead he saw a picture he liked in a carpenter's design book or perhaps he ordered a home to be bigger and better than the one down the road. Practically every major home in the county reflects some basic style, but also some degree of the unique desires of the original owner or builder.

The fact that we do not find many houses in Vigo county in the pure Federal style is indicative of two things. First, that most extant structures date from the late 1840's. Second, that most home builders chose a more modern and more lavish architectural style rather than the simple, understated elegance of Federalist architecture.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

In the Greek or Classic Revival mode, roughly from 1820 to the Civil War, Vigo County has very few examples. Since the buildings in the nation's capitol are mainly in this style, it was felt by many to reflect some nationalistic spirit as well as good taste. The Greek Revival style may be recognized by the heavy wood cornices or trim under pilasters at the corners, and a very regular triangular roof line. But most of all the Greek or Classic mode shows perfect balance in size, in window and door openings, and in its overall effect.

At about the same time as the Greek Revival, some local home builders were impressing their neighbors with homes in the Gothic style. Most of the Gothic structures, except for churches, are found in the rural areas. Gothic style is one of the easiest to recognize. Its steep pitched roof lines, pointed arches on windows and doors, woodwork on porches and Gothic feature — emphasis on height or vertical lines. Many Gothic houses throughout the country are small one-family dwellings, and some use the Gothic front on an otherwise plain frame structure.

The visitor to Terre Haute or any section of our county the major Italianate residences, most of which were built over a century ago, in 1868, is an example of this type of architecture.

The Italianate style must have been highly popular, judging from the relatively large number of these houses

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in both the city and farming areas. In either brick or frame, the Italianate house is generally two stories with a low roof pitch and brackets under the eaves. It would seem that some degree of status was attached to the degree of ornate carving included on these brackets.

Indeed, the Italianate mode became so popular that brackets even appeared under eaves on sheds, store buildings and bridges. Some Italianate structures also display round or ornate headers over the windows and bay windows.

The Franco-American style evidently had only a scattered popularity in Vigo county since few examples survive. They feature the Mansard roof and projecting dormer windows. In either brick or frame, with or without window headers and wrought iron work, the Franco-American mode was most common from 1850 to the 1890's.

Probably the Neo-Jacobean period is found most often in Terre Haute and surrounding area. Neo-Jacobean style is identified by its irregular roof with gables, dormers, chimneys, projecting bays and rectangular sections. Obviously, by this period, the last period of the classic style had long since been replaced by the ostentations, massive home which made clear the social status of the original owner. In each of these homes note the lack of regularity, the windows, towers and most particularly the roof lines which seem to be completely irregular. These fantastic structures in brick or frame give our community much of its character.

As you drive through Terre Haute streets and through the Valley, take time to notice the lovely homes of your neighbors of yesteryear. After all, it was for that purpose they were constructed in such a lovely variety of forms. One can only wonder how today's new homes will stand up in the eye of historical perspective in another hundred years.

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## —Historically Speaking—

Community Affairs File By Dorothy Clark

# Homes rather imposing at the turn of the century



TS JAN 8 1970

During the year 1898 several new homes were added to the imposing row of large family homes stretching from Ohio south to Strawberry Hill.

The J. M. Tune home at 1320 S. 6th St., now the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity house, was still unfinished at the end of that year.

Tune, a well known clothing merchant, spent \$4,000 on the plain frame eight-room residence painted green and white and surrounded by shade trees.

The front porch was described as of "peculiar design in a square surrounded by railing, while the top was finished as a balcony supported by two white colonades, surrounded by a circular rail."

Through the front door one entered a large hall with a broad flight of steps at the end, arranged across the hall "unlike those in any house recently built in this city."

To the right was a reception room where a cheery grate fire could be lighted. To the left of the hall was a large parlor, also containing a grate. Wood grill work was planned for the top of the grate section.

In back was a large library entered through sliding doors from the parlor. A large bay window to the south let in a "flood of light."

A passageway connected with the kitchen contained a dumbwaiter or slide to the third story. The back door opened upon a porch "well latticed in."

The kitchen was wainscoted in wood and well lighted.

Interior finishings of the house were not described in the old account as they were not far enough along by mid-winter of 1898.

The front bedroom was done in oak. The servants' sleeping quarters were located on the third floor.

In the basement was the furnace, coal-fired in those days. The house was lighted by electricity and furnished with city water and cisterns.

J. G. Vrydagh was the architect, Clift, Williams & Company furnished the mill work, and John Q. Johnson was the contractor.

The home of Emil Froeb, 1114 S. 6th St., now the Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity house,

was not completely finished eighty years ago. Classed as Renaissance style of architecture, it was built of Roman buff brick from St. Louis.

A large porch ran across the front and partway around the side. The rooms were all large, but the front hall was 16 by 30 feet, finished in quartered oak with a timbered ceiling and large beams showing.

A large fireplace on the north wall had bookcases on each side under little windows of diamond glass. Visitors passed upstairs under a pretty archway. The hall opened into a parlor 16 by 18 feet, panelled and faced in oak.

The dining room opened from the parlor and hall through two large sliding doors, a 17 by 22 foot room panelled and trimmed in mahogany. Plans included a mahogany sideboard placed at one end of the room, which also contained a grate and mantel.

The china closets and pantry leading to the kitchen were finished in chestnut. In the rear, stairs led up or down four steps to the side door, and by another flight to the cellar. On a level with the side door was a store room.

The upstairs hall was very large. Two front sleeping rooms with plenty of windows and closets were finished in oak. The middle bedroom was 17 by 22 feet. The bathroom was finished in white enamel and had both hard and soft water.

The third story was finished as one large room in white plaster.

Floyd and Stone were the architects, August Fromme, the contractor. D. W. Watson & Son did the plumbing, and Central Manufacturing Company was responsible for the interior finish.

Camille Urban, of the Stahl, Urban & Co., had built an eight-room frame house at 912 S. 7th St.

Of Elizabethan style architecture, the house was painted light brown in 1898. This is now the R. M. West's home at 916 S. 7th St. The Urban family lived there until 1950, then Dr. Hazel Tesh Pfennig for several years.

The large front porch led to a heavy front door. The reception

hall was finished in oak with a graceful stairway which had a cozy seat on one side at the bottom. The stairs were finished in chestnut.

Large folding doors opened into the parlor and were finished in cherry. The front of the room was described as "a swell out" containing three large windows and a cherry mantel. Folding doors opened into the dining room with a gas grate and elaborate mantel. The three windows were equipped with Willis wooden blinds made in three sliding sections.

A passageway led into the kitchen, conveniently arranged with table sink, coal range and gas range, and connected with the dining room through a pantry with two large china closets and an ice chest that could be filled from the outside of the home.

The back porch on the south side of the kitchen was well enclosed to make a good place to store bicycles.

The second story contained bedrooms, family library, servants' rooms and bathroom. The telephone was on the main floor.

The whole house was plastered in white to be papered in the spring of 1899.

The cellar had a large laundry with stationary tubs, a vegetable cellar, a furnace room and coal cellar. A hot water heat was installed by D. W. Watson & Sons. The house had electricity for lighting.

Architects were Floyd & Stone, and the contractor was August Fromme.

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## Home research by owners becoming more popular

*Historic Houses (TH)*

TS JUL 16 1978



It's becoming more and more popular for property owners to research their homes to find out all they can of its age, its builder, type of architecture, construction, and former tenants.

This is good for many rea-

sons. If the object is to restore an old house, it's necessary to learn as much about its early history as possible. Early drawings, photographs or descriptions are invaluable.

The contractor needs to know the style of the original

structure before he begins plans to remodel. Property values can be destroyed by thoughtless changes.

After the money is spent and the work is done, it's too late to regret doing restoration and decorating work.

It's essential to know who built the house and when, its style, how the house looked inside and out originally, and who owned or lived in it.

The more one knows about the house, the more one wishes to restore instead of remodel. The desire to make drastic changes becomes less except to put it back to its original style.

For historical information about your house talk with neighbors and everyone who might have knowledge of its earlier years. This is more successful for houses built after 1890 than for older structures.

City directories are one of the best sources for information concerning former owners. Keeping in mind the changes in house numbers over the years, it's possible to get an approximate date when the house was built.

The abstract for the property will show a decided jump in value when the house was built. This was known as an "improvement." Records and deeds before 1850 tend to be vague and more concerned with land transfers.

There are so many pitfalls for the inexperienced researcher. Early deeds may refer to a house that was destroyed by fire or moved to another location. Very large houses in Terre Haute were frequently cut in two sections and moved to different locations where they were remodelled.

Your home may be a replacement or built at another site and moved to its present location.

Note the occupation of your home's former owners. It could tell you a great deal about its changes over the years.

local historical society's files or at the public library. Annual plat books contain block by block maps and will show when your house first appeared.

Up to 1830, construction materials found in the houses were handmade. After 1830, materials and methods became more uniform due to machine technology and dating late 19th century houses from materials alone becomes most difficult.

Architectural styles vary from one community to another. Here in Terre Haute a combination of styles was popular with the leading contractors and house builders. They were frequently instructed to build one like the Joneses over on the next street "but add more dormers and porches on the side with triple bay windows."

Subsequent owners might add more architectural features to make the "style" even more confusing to the current owner.

Old nails yield dating clues. Hand wrought nails were made from the 1600's through the early 1800's. Machine-cut nails with handmade heads were used from the 1790's to the 1820's. Machine-cut and headed nails were used from the 1815's to the 1830's, and "modern" machine-cut nails from the 1830's to the present.

To make matters even more difficult, builders frequently re-used building materials, so screws, mouldings on original doors, latches and hinges, sash and window glass, fireplaces and chimneys, and paneling must be examined for clues.

Look in the attic for timber framing. Large 6 by 6 (or larger) timbers held together with wooden pegs indicates a house built before 1840. Balloon framing, based on 2 by 4's, came into use in the 1840's.

The Old-House Journal, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217, has monthly publications on the subject. Their special bulletin "How To Date

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Community Affairs File

Politics, murder and scandal

# Home history reveals more than a body might expect—

Last Sunday's column traced the history of a piece of real estate from the original land owner, Silas Fosgit, a Canadian Volunteer, and his bounty land received in 1816, through the 162 ensuing years to its present day owners, the writer and her husband. Known now as 2032 N. 8th Street, the house was built by Liberty Washington Loser and his wife, Grace, in 1899.

Personalities mentioned briefly in an abstract because of some vague connection with the real estate are most interesting.

For example, the Hon. Francis Von Bichowsky, Ex-State Senator, was born in Prussia in 1827, the son of a retired Prussian army officer of Polish parentage and his second wife of German ancestry. The second youngest child, he was reared and educated in Prussia, finishing his education at Berlin where he studied mechanical engineering.

Emigrating to the U.S. in 1851, Von Bichowsky located first in Clay county, coming to Terre Haute in 1852 where he engaged in the mercantile business until 1869 when he sold out due to ill health.

According to local history, he cast his first Republican vote for Abraham Lincoln. He served seven years on the city school board, served as Vigo County State Senator, 1881-83, and was re-elected in 1888. He had married Matilda Gust in 1855 in Germany. They had two living children in 1891, a son, Emmo, in California, and a daughter, Cora, at home.

The Hon. Jacob C. Kolsem, ex-mayor of Terre Haute and a manager of the H.D. Pixley, Son & Company, was also born in Prussia, in 1849, the oldest

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By Dorothy Clark TS OCT 2 2 1978

son, who came to America in 1853. His father, a mechanic in Pittsburgh, died in 1887.

Young Jacob learned the trade of nail-cutter and came to Terre Haute in 1868. In 1871, he learned the cooper's trade, and then became a salesman in a hat store until elected mayor in 1884.

Kolsem married Mary F. Stakeman, whose parents were German also, in 1874 in Terre Haute. They had six children, Charles J., John H., Anna, Eva, Francis and Agnes. A Democrat, Mr. Kolsem served two terms as city councilman and two terms as mayor.

Kolsem was also president of the Terre Haute Water Works, vice-president and general manager of Terre Haute District Telegraph Company, a member of the board of directors of three building, loan and savings associations, and treasurer of Vigo Loan & Saving Association, which he helped found in 1889.

Little is known of the Fechheimer family here. First listing in the Terre Haute City Directory was Henry Fechheimer in 1872. He was a dealer in fancy goods and notions on North Twelfth street south of Fourth Avenue.

In 1874, Hannah and Matilda Fechheimer were listed as clerks in Henry's store, now located on the east side of Fourth street, south of Main

Street. Their residence was on the north side of Eagle west of Seventh street.

In 1875, Isaac Fechheimer was the proprietor of the store at No. 12 South Fourth street. Two years later the business was at 20 S. 4th, and he resided at 126 S. 5th St.

Edward Page Fairbanks was the son of Henry Fairbanks. His partner, George Maier, was mentioned in the abstract because of a murder in a saloon. It seems a man by the name of Peff was killed in a saloon run by Charles L. Markin in 1898.

The father of Peff sued Markin for damages. Since Maier was on Markin's bond as a saloon keeper, he was also named in the suit. In 1901, the abstract noted that the "cause was dismissed at Peff's costs for want of prosecution."

Wiley A. Greenleaf, local contractor, paved the alley between Seventh and Eighth, Linden to the alley north, in 1930. And, there's nothing nicer than a paved alley.

In 1937, Greenleaf paved North Eighth street from Lafayette Avenue to Maple Avenue, after the old streetcar tracks were removed.

All abstracts are interesting, some more so than others, but it takes more than a bit of knowledge to decipher some of them. They contain births, deaths, marriages, family relationships, and wills, so they are



invaluable for genealogical research.

Abstracts contain much local history, business dealings, court cases, and sometimes juicy scandals and illegitimacies.

Our 79-year-old home becomes more interesting to its present day owners when its past history is explored.

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# Homes in city trace history's path

T s OCT 30 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

A very old house always has a slight sound, as if it were talking softly to itself. It is a cheerful, comfortable sound, and perhaps at night the house remembers all the happy times, the Christmas holidays, the babies born under its roof since it was built.

We wonder if the builder, as he hand-cut the clapboards, had any idea he was building so well and for so many families to come. Sure, they say some houses are haunted by all the tragic and sad events that took place within the walls. Possibly. If so, isn't it also probable that happy houses exist in greater numbers than unhappy ones?

According to the client's pocketbook, American builders planned low-pitched, gable-ended roofs, the classic Parthenon facade for the Greek Revival houses in style in the 1830s and 1840s. There were few architects involved in anything smaller than a public building.

Built in well-shaded yards, these unpretentious houses did not pretend to any fashion of the day. According to standing in the community or pocketbook, houses were built of brick on stone foundations, or of wood on a brick foundation. Lawns were landscaped and decorated with fountains and statuary in some cases.

House plan books of that day helped the builder and his client choose room arrangements and architectural styles. Some pointed out a house built for a friend or neighbor and went from there, maybe changing the windows, put-

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ting the chimney on the other side, or rearranging the porches, etc. Some modern architects believe that the early styles told something about their owners. A Gothic Revival house might have meant the owner was proud to be of old English stock. The French style house showed the owner preferred a stylish and fashionable home, while the Italianate house was the choice of a cultured and artistic household, not necessarily of Italian descent.

Between 1870 and 1900 the trend was for more elaborate home designs, to the fancy and baroque, with lots of cupolas, odd-shaped towers and windows. During this time period America equated wealth with virtue — fine men built fine houses, and he who built a fine home would be taken for a fine man.

Victorian home builders could also choose from builder's plan books, and advancing technology made possible cheaper building. Middle class homes were decorated with Victorian gingerbread made possible by jig saws and scroll saws.

The so-called Queen Ann style of the 1880s had nothing to do with Queen Anne who reigned 1702-14. The American imitation was inspired by pictures of English country houses.

Elements of Tudor, Gothic and English Renaissance were combined in an eclectic style using steep-pitched roofs, asymmetrical gables, towers and turrets, and gingerbread porches (called verandas or piazzas) and eaves. Scaled down, these

houses were called Queen Anne cottages.

Tudor shingles, English oak, stained-glass windows and fireplaces supplemented by central heating became the rage. During the Gay Nineties middle class home owners added even more Victorian excesses of gingerbread and brackets. Working men lived in "shotgun" houses, many without front porches.

By 1910, people were moving into new subdivisions around the edge of town. The pioneer's frontier was replaced by the suburbs with all the maples, elms or beech trees carefully retained.

When street numbers were added to the houses, everyone knew the town was assuming a city air. Next came street signs and eventually paving, along with street lights. Gone were the days when everyone knew where everyone else lived and could direct the stranger without difficulty.

Most middle class houses were located close to the street to allow space for a producing garden on the back of the lot. People thought you had something to hide if the house was placed back on the lot behind the trees.

In a December issue of the Terre Haute Tribune in 1906 was the news of a new residence in the city. "Excavations were commenced for the new residence of Moses Pierson, of Pierson Brothers Lumber Company, on South Sixth Street near

Washington Ave. Architect Robert T. Vrydagh has embodied in the plans several unique and pleasing features."

"The building will be frame, two-stories high, with ten commodious rooms besides an extraordinarily large central and reception room, and a completely tiled bathroom." The foundation was of compressed brick and the roof of slate. The interior finish was to be of oak, mahogany, white enamel and extensive tile wainscoting. It was expected the new home would be ready for occupancy by May, 1906.

A peek in the city directories shows that in 1906 Moses Pierson lived at 708 S. Sixth St. His business address was 800 S. Ninth St., where, he and his brother, Isaac T. Pierson, operated Pierson & Brot., lumber, sash, doors, blinds, shingles, laths, etc. His brother lived at 507 S. Center St.

The 1907 city directory shows that the new residence was located at 1318 S. Sixth St.

The next year another new home was underway for George C. Buntin, 1454 S. Center St. The old house was moved to a lot across the street where the family lived until the new brick colonial home was built on the site of the former home. Work began April 1, 1908.

Buntin was vice president of the Smith & Buntin Drug Co., 600 Wabash Ave., with William C. Buntin, president, and T. H. Buntin, secretary-treasurer. This firm was described as "pharmacists, analytical and manufacturing chemists and drug assayers." The residence of W. C. Buntin was at 630 Cherry St.

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# Old houses also tell us about our history

Researching the history of an old house can be just as fascinating as tracing a family genealogy. Sometimes they follow along the same paths and become intertwined.

What a lot of local history old houses could tell if their walls could speak before the wrecking ball brings them tumbling down. Only their abstracts, deeds and other legal papers of their former owners can talk for them.

The history of an old rooming house at 658 Chestnut St. ended in 1961 when the property was acquired by Indiana State University and it was demolished for campus expansion.

The abstract, like so many in Terre Haute, shows the property was originally owned by Thomas Bullitt, one of the original town proprietors of the Terre Haute Land Co. He received a patent signed in 1821 by President James Monroe and Joseph Meigs, land office commissioner.

Following the death of Bullitt, his land became the property of his daughter, Diana, who became the wife of Gen. Phil Kearney.

In 1832 when Alexander C. King acquired the property it was described as "Out Lot No. 12 containing about five and a half acres more or less, bounded on the north by land said to belong to C. B. Modesitt, east by the county road, south by Out Lot No. 14 and Boudinot's lot; and west by a lane separating it from McCabe's orchard lot."

In 1835 King and his wife, Emeline F., deeded the property to John F. King. The sum of \$1,650 indicates the real estate might have been improved by the addition of a dwelling house.

John F. King built the first distillery in Terre Haute as early as 1821 out on the commons, not far from where Chauncey Rose Junior High School now is located. When the distillery burned in 1825, it was undoubtedly Terre Haute's first big fire.

In 1839 a city ordinance was adopted to extend and widen Eagle, Mulberry, Cherry, Walnut, Swan and Oak streets. Up to this time, these streets had run from the Wabash River eastward to what now is known as 6½ Street or Center Street.

This ordinance also provided that Eighth Street, or "the street running north and south on the section line," be established 65 feet in width from what is now about Seventh and Deming streets to about Seventh and Tippecanoe streets.

Researchers find this confusing until they learn that this same ordinance authorized that the "street running north and south along the section line between Sections 21 and 22, formerly known as Eighth Street would now be named Seventh Street."

John F. King died in 1856 leaving the widow, Sarah Redford King, and eight children, all of age except the last two daughters. To settle King's estate, the property was divided so the widow would have one-third. The court set off

## Historically speaking



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"part of the Out Lot No. 12, the tract which contained the King family residence and a two-story frame dwelling built by William H. Stewart." This proves the original house at 658 Chestnut was built between 1835 and 1856.

During the winter of 1862, Judge Scott and his family moved into the house. His son, George A. Scott, who lived to become Terre Haute's oldest attorney, was a tiny infant at the time.

During the time the property was owned by George W. Carico (he died in 1891), the house was extensively remodeled, and again during the ownership of Finley A. McNutt who acquired it in 1900 and lived there until he died in 1927.

McNutt left the property to his widow, Irma, and a daughter, Elizabeth McNutt Dailey, wife of James Albert Dailey. In 1951, part of the property became a parking lot for the Zorah Shrine Temple and in 1956 the remainder was purchased by the college.

In spite of its several owners over the 120 odd years, 658 Chestnut, the first house built in Out Lot No. 12, became known as the "Old McNutt House" because of its prominent owner, local attorney Finley A. McNutt.

His father, Judge Cyrus F. McNutt, was a law professor at Indiana University before coming to Terre Haute in 1877 to open a law office. In 1884 he and his son, John G. McNutt, had their law office in Room 2, 313½ Ohio St.

Later his other son, Finley, came into the family law firm, and following the Judge's death, his two sons carried on the firm as McNutt & McNutt at 525½ Ohio. In 1898 Finley lived at 922 S. Center St., and John lived at 532 S. Fifth St.

The northeast corner of Out Lot No. 12 was acquired in 1884 by William P. Ijams from the estate of Chauncey Rose. The Ijams family residence underwent many transformations over the years. It became a funeral home, a dancing school, a watch-making school and a retail paint store before it was demolished for the Shrine parking lot.

Who would have believed the carriage house for the Ijams property would have become a pizzeria? Few early residents of Terre Haute had ever heard of pizza.

Yes, it's true. Walls do have ears and old houses can talk if there is someone to listen.

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# The Little Red House

## Colorful history paints South Sixth Street home

18 MAY 07 1989

Several years ago, I was able to tell the story of the "Little Red House" located at 1115 S. Sixth St. with the help of its new owners, Nicholas and Mary L. Plascak.

Unless a house is newly built and the buyers are the first occupants, most home owners are curious about the history of their new home and its former tenants.

The abstract for the Plascak's home furnished with information beginning (as they all do in this community) with the original patent signed by President Monroe and the subsequent sale of town lots here in 1816.

The Plascak's property became known as "a part of Outlot No. 65 of the original out-lots of the town of Terre Haute."

According to the will of Cuthbert Bullitt, one of the original town proprietors, dated 1825 at Jefferson County, Ky., Lots 65, 68 and 71 were given to his son, Cuthbert Nevill Bullitt. In 1831 Bullitt sold Lot 65 to Lucius H. Scott for \$536.

In 1851, Scott and his wife Eliza sold about five acres of Lot 65 to Augustus S. Winslow for \$560. Winslow and his wife Susan L. sold part of the property to Russell Green and his wife Adeline. In 1857 both couples, the Winslows and the Greens, sold out to Harris R. Smith and his wife Milleson O.

Abstracts make cold reading sometimes, giving only dates and statistics, not the warm human side of the whys and wherefores of business transactions. Sometimes they seem to tell too much.

The Smiths sold the property to James M. Lyons for \$5,000. Mr. Smith signed the deed in Hamilton

### Historically speaking



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County, Ohio, while Mrs. Smith signed at Orleans County, Vt.

During the early Civil War years the property was in litigation several times. The proceedings of a trial for mortgage foreclosure were included in the abstract, as was the fight with a renter over possession of a mantel piece. The owner won.

After mortgaging the property nine separate times from 1858 to 1880, Lyons deeded the property in 1882 to his wife, Anna H., "with love and affection."

Lengthy legal terminology boiled down to a legal separation and a division of all properties held or owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lyons. Two men in New Bedford, Bristol County, Mass., were appointed to convert everything to cash and divide equally.

In 1893 Miss Annie Pierce Lyons (daughter) maiden over 21 years of age, formerly of New Bedford, and previously of Terre Haute, Ind., then living in Taunton, Mass., sold the property now described as 100-foot frontage, assessed at \$2,500 on

grounds and improvements, for \$3,250 to William E. Donahoe.

The abstract also stated that Miss Lyons was born in 1868 in the dwelling house situated on the southeast corner of the lot sold in this deed. Two years later, in 1894, she sold another 100-foot frontage to Mrs. Marion Tuell Smith, wife of Horace M. Smith, for \$3,200. There was no structure on this property, just the land.

On Nov. 1, 1893, William E. Donahoe, unmarried, sold the house to Stephen M. Reynolds and his wife, Jessie F. And here the story of the old house becomes more interesting.

Long-time residents had told me of the free-love society, the communal type of free-thinking couples, organized by the Reynolds and their friends. According to my informants, several couples put into a community treasury amounts of money controlled by the vote of the group.

With this act of good faith, they had the right to draw on the treasury for money as needed, the right to share everything with other members of the little society including each others' husbands and wives!

Is this where Sin City started in 1893 with this group?

Members strolled barefoot on the dewy front lawn reciting poetry. Stern parents forbade their children from walking on that side of the South Sixth Street in front of "The Little Red House."

Other long-time residents told how Eugene V. Debs visited the notorious "Red House" to attend

meetings supposedly about Socialism. As far back as anyone could recall, the house always has been painted red. Even the wide floorboards were painted red by some of the tenants.

Following the suicide death in 1910 of their 22-year-old daughter Jean (she drank carbolic acid), the Reynolds left Terre Haute to live in Chicago with their two other children, Ford and Marian.

In 1915 the house was sold to Dr. J. Rudolph Meng and his wife, Jane Kimball Yung. Dr. Meng died in 1952, and his wife in 1960. The property was inherited by her cousin, Milton Solon Kimball of San Gabriel, Calif. He sold the house to Warren J. and Billie Sue Culver, who sold it to the Plascaks.

They enjoyed the home for awhile, until the fraternity traffic became too much. Bouncing basketballs while one tries to sleep can be a real menace. They converted the historic home into rental apartments without major remodeling. The dewy front lawn trod by poetic feet so long ago was made into an off-street parking area.

Longfellow's poem "The Haunted House" expresses our feelings about so many of the older homes we are privileged to visit:

"All houses wherein men have lived and died

"Are haunted houses. Through the open doors

"The harmless phantoms on their errands glide,

"With feet that make no sound upon the floors . . ."

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# Preston House had rich past

## Former resident shared her memories of old house

There is so much to tell about the Preston House, for many years Terre Haute's oldest residence, which stood at the southeast corner of 13½ and Poplar streets for so many years until it was badly damaged by fire and then had to be demolished and removed.

The story about the house and its former owners is always of interest to young and old, life-long residents or newcomers, those interested in architecture or antique furniture, and those only interested in its fascinating "ghost story" that made some call the house "haunted."

Many years ago, Margaret Preston, for more than 40 years a teacher in the city schools, told some interesting facts about the house as she remembered it. She and her brother, John Preston, were the last surviving children of Nathaniel and Charlotte (Wood) Preston. Margaret died at the age of 85 years. She received her early education in a private school established here by her father.

In the 1930s, she was interviewed by a news reporter to learn more about the pioneer history of this vicinity. "The house where my brother and I now live," she said, "was built by Mr. Dewees. There is no record of the exact time it was built, but from the time the land was entered we think it was built fully a hundred years ago." (Note: later research showed it was built between 1823 and 1827.)

"Mr. Dewees owned the stone

### Historically speaking



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quarry up the river some place (in Parke County); the stone was hauled by ox teams at great expense."

According to Preston, "the only person I have ever heard of who was acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Dewees was the elder Miss Eliza Warren, the aunt of Miss Mary Alice Warren.

"In those times," she continued, "it was considered a very elegant place, and the surroundings must have been beautiful, for it was so perfectly laid off. With a few patches here and there, the same bricks still surround the house and no part of the inside woodwork has been replaced."

In July 1926, she had a water pipe replaced in a basement closet. The workmen dug seven feet below the surface and were met with obstacles at every turn of the

spade. They encountered a stone floor, on top of that a hewn log of oak as solid as the day it was put in that was probably a brace for the house. It was necessary to cut through the floor where other difficulties were encountered.

Over the years some strange tales were believed about the Preston House, in addition to the usual ghost story, that is. Strangers told that it was built by the Indians. One person believed the tale that it was built for a courthouse.

When the Preston family took possession of the property, according to Preston, the Gilbert family was living on the National Road. The Jewett family lived opposite the Gilbert farm. The entrance to the yard was on the National Road about opposite where the park is now, but the house stood where Sycamore Street passed through.

"With these exceptions," she noted, "there were no buildings near us, the nearest on the west was on the National Road just east of the railroad, but there was no railroad there originally, of course.

"The house was a large, two-story building used as a wayside inn and, of course, a drinking place. It was called the National Road House." (This building was torn down about 1920.)

In the winter time the light from the open fireplaces in the Preston House would attract anyone passing along the old Bloomington

Road, as Poplar Street was called earlier.

Men who had spent the evening drinking only wanted to get warm, but always spent the rest of the night. Nathaniel Preston would never turn anyone away who was likely to fall by the wayside and freeze.

Once, the Prestons entertained an escaped inmate of an insane asylum. The oldest son, a fearless boy of 6 years, admitted the man and entertained him until the parents investigated and recognized the problem. They held him until morning, fed him breakfast, and he left. A few days later they heard of his capture.

Another time the Prestons entertained a woman and her four children for several days. They were trying to reach relatives and had become weary and foot sore. This was in the summer, so they gave them shelter and food in a little house on the farm until they were able to go on their way.

Indians were frequent visitors at the Preston House. They came on begging expeditions, wanting clothes for a papoose. They were very particular, and wouldn't accept anything ragged.

After her death, Margaret Preston was survived by her brother, John, and her niece, Natalie Preston Smith, the last owner and resident of the historic landmark.

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Community Affairs File

# Scenes of wild disorder

## Banished Baltimore man brought vices to Terre Haute

TS FEB 03 1991

An empty lot on the eastside of South Sixth Street and north of Farrington Street was purchased by Henry B. Williams in 1852. Here he built a house before the year was out.

The house was sold to Chauncey Rose in 1865, who sold it to Josephus Collett in 1870. In turn, Collett sold it soon after to Sam McDonald, a newcomer to Terre Haute described as "the wild young man banished by his family from his home in Baltimore."

Young McDonald made the house the scene of wild disorder with the help of his boon companions who visited him there. Their female companions were imported from Baltimore for frequent visits.

Sam McDonald made extensive alterations in the house, adding a grand ballroom with two fireplaces. During some of the wild parties he staged there, his visitors shot out the lights over the mantel. The bullet holes in the marble were pointed out to later visitors.

Except for his black servant, McDonald died alone on Aug. 20, 1877, aged 28 years, and his body was brought home from his farm in Lost Creek Township.

His sisters from Baltimore sold the property to Richard W. Thompson in 1881, and he lived there until his death in 1900.

### Historically speaking



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In 1913, the big house was cut into two parts and moved to separate locations several blocks south. One half of Rowdy Hall is now located at 2215 S. Seventh St. The other half was moved to South Center Street.

In 1908, local historian C.C. Oakey told how Sam McDonald's "grandfather was General Samuel McDonald, distinguished as a soldier and businessman, who accumulated a great fortune to be scattered by his son and grandson."

Oakey related how "William McDonald [son of the general] was a sporting man of Baltimore, best known as owner of the famous Flora Temple, and owned a magnificent residence and estate of

360 acres almost within the city of Baltimore, one of the finest and stateliest in Maryland. Before it were marble gates surmounted by bronze lions, at which gatekeepers constantly stood to admit visitors to the splendid grounds which they guarded. The estate was tied up until William should be 35, but he died before that age, when his boy was 13.

"The son Samuel spent years in school in England and Germany, and on his return was made a lieutenant colonel of a Maryland militia regiment, the good associations and rigid discipline of which for a time kept him within the bounds of propriety. He fell from grace and a prolonged drinking bout caused the breaking of an engagement of three-years' standing with a Baltimore girl."

According to Oakey, "he came to Terre Haute in 1871 and bought both town and country properties, and divided his time between the two places. He was a handsome young fellow, very courteous and gentlemanly when sober, but drink transformed him into a demon. He paid \$30,000 for his country seat, and the extensive improvements alone cost over \$15,000. He was a collector of all kinds of livestock, very fine for the time, but not to be judged by the extravagant prices

paid for them. He had some trotting stock and five hunting dogs, and everything he did was on a scale of magnificence which astonished the people of Terre Haute and Vigo County.

"His home was Rowdy Hall, where unbridled license ruled. He was indifferent to public opinion and flaunted his vices in public view as did his disreputable companions, male and female. Strange to say, he would not gamble further than to back his horses in the park. His train consisted of a Baltimore gambler, a private secretary, and a very faithful Irish attendant. While on a visit to Baltimore, young McDonald killed a noted gambler in a barroom quarrel, was indicted, tried and acquitted, his lawyer being the late Sen. Whyte, his former guardian (who never lost a case).

"After a severe spell of illness, he formed good resolutions and moved all of his Sixth Street belongings to his farm (the old Stewart farm). He soon tired of hunting, fishing, kennels and stables, and the last few weeks of his life were a prolonged debauch, and he died alone except for the hired help in his house, in the most dreary and neglected surroundings, after a wild, fevered delirium."

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Community Affairs File

# Records of deeds tell interesting story

TS OCT 18 1992

The old deed records of Vigo County tell many interesting tales. For example, in 1827 Curtis Gilbert bought two lots at the northwest corner of Fifth and Walnut streets from the town proprietors.

He sold these lots to the trustees of the school society on Sept. 16, 1831, for the purpose of "erecting a schoolhouse thereon and providing for the establishment and management of a school therein, have purchased two lots of land designated 9 and 10 for \$90.00 and requested a conveyance to Russell Ross, Joseph Miller and William C. Linton."

Sold in the venture were 129 shares at \$5 each, and school began before 1833. However, owing to some disagreement among the stockholders, a commissioner was appointed to sell the property and divide the proceeds among the stockholders.

Commissioner Ezra Jones sold Lot 9 on the corner to Andrew Armstrong in May 1836, and Lot 10 north of it to Scott & Wasson in November 1836.

In 1837 this lot was bought by Bishop Brute, and the former lot on which still stood the old brick school was sold to Father Lalumiere in 1848.

## Historically speaking



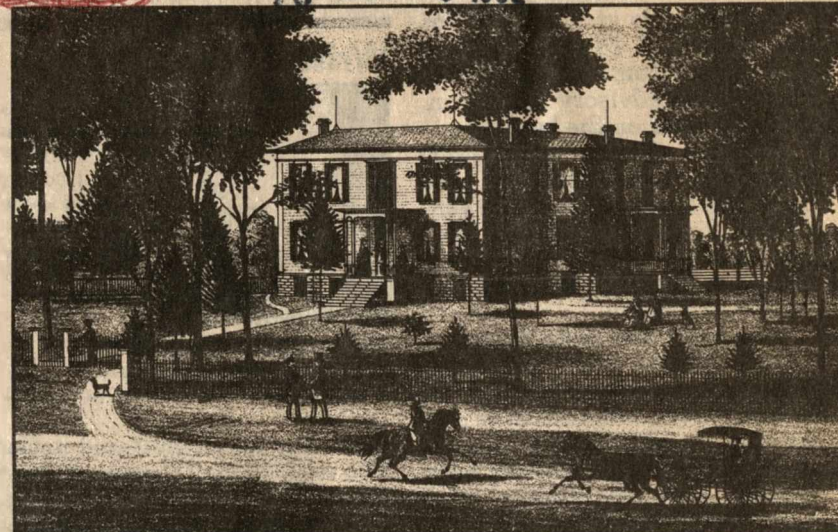
By Dorothy J. Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

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In the summer of 1848, Father Lalumiere offered to give the property to the Sisters of Providence on condition that they build a school on the lot and suitably repair the aging brick house that stood there.

On Dec. 28, 1848, Mother Theodore recorded, "We sent the baggage of the Sisters to Terre Haute," and the next day, "I return in a wagon after conducting the Sisters to Terre Haute. The (river) bottoms are frightful. It is at the peril of one's life that they can be passed. Several carts remained."

The school, St. Vincent's Academy, opened Jan. 2, 1849, with 28 children in attendance. The deed bears the date Jan. 29,



Long ago: Curtis Gilbert lived at 14th and Main streets.

1849. For nearly 90 years the Sisters carried on an academy of high school here until they took over at St. Patrick's High School in 1937.

A few years later the old building, after serving as one of Terre Haute's schools for over a century, was demolished.

On the north side of Ohio Street, a little west of the Congregational Church, stood a small brick house built by Curtis Gilbert in 1834. He had purchased the two outlots lying be-

tween Wabash and Ohio from Sixth to Seventh streets.

In 1842, Gilbert moved out of town to the home he built between 14th and 15th streets on Wabash, then far out in the country. This location now is Gilbert Park, but formerly was better known as Steeg Park, Hobo Park, etc.

The house he built in the center of the park later was cut in half and the halves moved to nearby locations south of the park.

Community Affairs File

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# Catalpa trees were plentiful

## Men, aided by hay-burning horse power, moved houses

MAY 05 1991

Some of the lovely old homes that were built for the founding fathers, builders of this community, are still with us, but too many of them exist now only in the memories of our oldest citizens and in photographs or drawings. Photos of all the old homes mentioned in this column can be found at the Vigo County Public Library.

Judge John T. Scott, father of the well-remembered attorney, George A. Scott, bought an old home in 1864 when the family first came to Terre Haute. The house was built about 1835 on the east side of North Seventh Street, south of Eighth Avenue (then the town limits) on land purchased from Demas Deming.

It had been moved to this location from its original site at the southeast corner of the intersection. It was moved about 100 feet south when the Home for Aged Women was to be built.

At the time the Scott family bought the property, there were a number of catalpa trees which had been planted by the builder. An eastern nursery salesman had sold him these trees in 1835, the same time he sold similar trees to Chauncey Rose, Curtis Gilbert, A. Cobble and others.

The Warren house was located on the west side of Sixth Street between Swan and Oak on Outlot

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No. 35, on land owned by Dr. C.B. Modesitt. When his daughter married Chauncey Warren in 1832, he deeded the property to Warren in 1935 "for love and affection."

Warren built the house and occupied it first three weeks after the birth of his daughter, Eliza, on March 11, 1841. Eliza Warren lived in the home until her death in 1915, and the house was demolished in 1917.

Col. Richard W. Thompson built a house on the east side of Fifth Street south of College Avenue. In 1850 he had purchased a strip of land 203 feet wide extending from Third to Sixth, and beginning 203 feet south of College. The house then faced Sixth Street with a long lane of catalpa trees on either side

of the approach to the house.

Col. Thompson traded the property in 1864 to William J. Ball, taking in exchange the Spring Hill home of Ball. Following the marriage of Julia Ball and Dr. Moorhead, they built a new house, and this one was demolished.

The Spring Hill house, mentioned above, was purchased by Ball in 1856 after the completion of his work on the Wabash & Erie Canal. The house was located on the northeast quarter of Section 11 in Honey Creek Township.

A resident engineer for the canal, Ball came to Terre Haute in 1841 and lived at the northwest corner of Sixth and Poplar streets. After he traded with Col. Thompson in 1864, he moved back to town.

This house saw the building of three railroads and the canal, but was finally destroyed by fire during the reign of a bootlegger.

Located on the northwest corner of Sixth and Poplar was the W.R. McKeen house built about 1870. It is reported, but without confirmation, that this property was once owned by R.G. Hervey who promoted and built the Terre Haute & Peoria Railroad line by a merger and consolidation of several lines, some of which he only leased.

McKeen secured the house as the winner of a poker game at which all

the players ran out of money, and Hervey staked the deed of the property on his cards. He lost.

However, the deed of the property shows a consideration of \$85,000. This was probably in excess of actual value. The house was later occupied by the AP&S Clinic until it was razed for the erection of the present new clinic.

The Hulman Sisters' house was located at 824 S. Sixth St., northeast corner of Sixth and Park streets. Theodore Hulman, father of Anna and Gertrude Hulman who lived in the house, purchased the entire block from Deming to Park streets in 1864, previous to his marriage.

The house was the William J. Ball house, purchased by Hulman from William B. Tuell, and moved from its first location at the northwest corner of Sixth and Poplar streets to the later site.

This writer never ceases to be amazed at the number of houses that are moved successfully to different locations in the city. The principle of jacking up the houses remains the same, but the manpower aided only by hay-burning horse power made the task a monumental one. The low hourly wage for labor was certainly a factor in contracting the job for house moving.

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